

4. (Amended) A printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the bearings (151, 211) supporting said motor-driven roller (14) are coupled with elastic spring means (16).

5. (Amended) A printer according to claim 1, characterized in that said bearings (151) are securely fixed to a feed plate (15).

6. (Amended) A printer according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises means (17) for providing a predetermined gap between said roller (14) and said printing head (13).

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

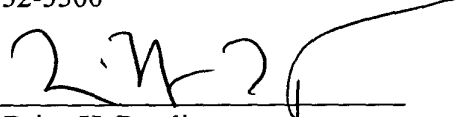
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: May 15, 2001

JJG/tvm

By


Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960

MARKED-UP COPY

3. (Amended) A printer according to [any of claims 1 and 2] claim 1, characterized in that the axis (141) of rotation of said motor roller (14) is substantially located at the vertical of the line of heating components (131) borne by said printing head (13).

4. (Amended) A printer according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, characterized in that the bearings (151, 211) supporting said motor-driven roller (14) are coupled with elastic spring means (16).

5. (Amended) A printer according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that said bearings (151) are securely fixed to a feed plate (15).

6. (Amended) A printer according to [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises means (17) for providing a predetermined gap between said roller (14) and said printing head (13).